“Daddy of NATO” and the Decaying Continent

On Donald Trump’s New European Doctrine

In a long interview given in December 2025, Donald Trump was introduced as the most

influential person shaping Europe. Not a European leader, not a Brussels technocrat, not Zelenskyy or Putin, but an American president whose foreign-policy vocabulary still consists largely of deals, dominance, and vibes. What unfolds across the conversation is not just

the usual Trumpian stream of consciousness. It's a reasonably coherent doctrine wrapped in improvisation:

- Europe as a decaying, self-sabotaging civilization,
- migration as the central threat,
- Ukraine as a lost cause that should sign

whatever is put in front of it,

- and the United States as patron and sponsor of the “right” kind of leaders inside other people’s democracies.

All of it narrated by a man who casually declares that NATO calls him “Daddy.” Europe, meet your new feudal

lord.

1. Peace by Capitulation: Ukraine as “Lost, So Be Reasonable”

Trump’s account of the war in Ukraine is deceptively simple: Russia is bigger, size wins, Ukraine has already lost a lot of land,

therefore it's time to accept reality and make a deal. The moral packaging is tidy: *too many people are dying; I just want to stop the killing*.

Zelenskyy, in his telling, hasn't even found time to read the most recent "proposal." His advisers supposedly like it; the

obstacle is the man at the top. This is clever framing. It makes Russia's gains sound like a fact of nature – gravity, tectonic plates, Moscow – and any resistance starts to look like stubbornness, ego, or emotional blockage on the Ukrainian side.

The underlying logic is:

- Russia has the upper hand and the demographic weight.
- Europe is weak and indecisive.
- The war “would never have happened” if Trump had stayed in power.
- Therefore, the responsible thing now is to pressure Ukraine

into a settlement that consolidates territorial loss.

Call it *peacemaking by retroactive permission*. The aggressor redraws borders; the victim is scolded for not signing off fast enough. The moral burden is flipped: if Zelenskyy doesn't accept, then he becomes

the one “letting people die.”

It’s a very old story in a new suit: spheres of influence dressed up as humanitarian urgency.

2. Europe the “Decaying” Patient: Migration as Original Sin

From there, Trump

moves to his favorite canvas: Europe as a civilization in decline. The language is almost textbook:

- Immigration policy is a “disaster.”
- European countries are “decaying.”
- Sweden allegedly went from crime-free idyll to dangerous zone.

- London and Paris are ruined by bad leaders and the wrong kind of newcomers.
- The mayor of London is described not just as incompetent but in openly dehumanizing terms.

Against that, he offers his pantheon of model rulers: Orbán in Hungary,

hardliners in Poland, border-wall states that "allow nobody in." The message is simple: nations that close the gate are virtuous; nations that don't are on the path to civilizational suicide.

This isn't just migration policy. It's a civilizational myth:

- “Real” Europe is ethnically and culturally stable.
- Demographic change equals decline.
- Liberal norms (human rights, asylum, pluralism) are rebranded as political correctness and weakness.

Layered onto this is his

own administration's strategy line about *cultivating resistance to Europe's current trajectory from within European nations*. Translate from think-tank to plain language: Washington aligning itself with nationalist, illiberal movements *inside* EU member states

against their own governments and institutions.
That's not the old "transatlantic alliance". It's the hegemon picking its favorite barons inside someone else's realm and calling it freedom.

3. Boats, Murderers, and Numerology: The

Venezuela Segment

The section on Venezuela and the drug war feels like a different topic, but structurally it's the same move.

We get:

- Claims that Venezuela has sent "millions" of people, including a very specific five-digit number of murderers.

- Boats allegedly packed with drugs, each one destroyed saving “25,000 American lives” on average.
- A story of emptied prisons and mental institutions exported wholesale to the United States.

None of this is argued. It’s incanted. The

numbers function like ritual: big enough to shock, precise enough to feel real, disconnected enough from evidence to be uncheckable in the moment.

When the interviewer points out that fentanyl largely comes via Mexico and Chinese precursors, the reply doesn’t engage

with the data at all. It just swings back to the boats, the bad people, the heroic strikes.

The pattern is obvious:

- **Stage a siege**: The country is under attack by foreign hordes and narco-states.
- **Sanctify extra-legal force**: Sinking boats and vague hints of

hitting targets “on land” become necessary and virtuous.

- **Short-circuit debate**: Anyone raising legal or moral questions is implicitly on the side of the drug lords.

It’s the same style of politics as the Ukraine “peace plan”: emotional numbers, abstract

compassion (“I don’t like seeing people die”), concrete brutality.

4. Trillions by Anecdote: Economic Myth-Making

On the economy, the pattern simply goes domestic.

Trump gives himself an

A++++, claims to have inherited historic highs in prices, and credits his own policies with bringing them down. He talks about gasoline dropping to just under two dollars in some states, and about **18 trillion dollars** flowing into the US thanks to tariffs and his election.

To put that into scale: 18 trillion is not a policy tweak, it's a second US economy stapled onto the first.

We also get the anecdote about a major chipmaker: they supposedly needed help, he demanded 10 percent of the company in return, and the United States allegedly made

$40 billion off that one conversation. One phone call, one equity grab, and suddenly the state behaves like a very aggressive hedge fund. Again, the point isn't factual precision. It's myth:

- The leader as magical negotiator who brings home unfathomable

sums with a phone call.

- The national economy as his personal deal book.
- Any criticism of his foreign travel or attention to global issues gets reframed as ingratitude from people too stupid to understand how much money he’s conjuring.

This is government as legend. The institutions that actually handle trade, taxation, regulation, monetary policy simply vanish behind the figure of the heroic CEO-in-chief.

5. Healthcare: Blow It Up, We'll Fix It Later

On healthcare, he

performs the same trick but with higher stakes. Obamacare subsidies are due to lapse within weeks. Millions will face higher premiums. Asked whether he'll support an extension, he immediately pivots to:

- Obamacare was designed to enrich insurance companies.

- Insurance stocks have allegedly gone up over a thousand percent.
- His solution: stop paying insurers, give the money directly to the people, let them buy their own plans.

In abstract that sounds like a radical cash-transfer model or voucher scheme. In

practice, there are several missing chapters:

- What happens to people in the gap between subsidies ending and the new paradise system being invented?
- How do you ensure coverage for the sick, the old, the already excluded?

- Who regulates the quality of what people buy with their “direct money”?

Those questions are simply pushed aside. The moral logic is stripped down:

Current system bad → I want better system → resistance comes from corrupt Democrats

owned by insurers → therefore I am on the people's side.
It's a familiar populist move: *abolish now, design later*. Transition costs are for other people.

6. Birthright Citizenship: Revisionism as

Legal Strategy

On immigration at home, the interview moves to the question of birthright citizenship. Here Trump argues that the historic rule – being born on US soil normally makes you a citizen – was only ever meant for "babies of slaves" after the Civil War, and is

being misused today by foreigners stepping onto US territory to create instant citizens.
This is cutting straight into the 14th Amendment, but with a very selective reading:

- Every serious legal interpretation for over a century has treated birthright citizenship

as general, with narrow exceptions.

- He is pushing a retrofitted story: a narrow, historical purpose that allegedly should override the text and the entire subsequent legal tradition.

Asked whether he would try to strip existing

citizens if the Supreme Court sided with him, he claims not to have really thought about it. Which is either disingenuous or terrifying, given how central this is to his narrative of a country overrun from the maternity ward.

Here the doctrine crystallizes:

- Migration + birthright citizenship = internal demographic takeover.
- Courts must be persuaded to rewrite the social contract backwards.
- If that produces a semi-permanent non-citizen class, that's not discussed. The crisis framing does the work.

7. The Meta-System: Personal Rule over Institutions

Beneath all the policy fragments, the interview also reveals a consistent style of power.

A few patterns repeat:

- **Self-deification**: He is the man who “settled

eight wars," the most transparent politician on earth, the one with reports no one else can see, the fixer of magnets and rare earths, the only one who can talk to "tough cookies" like Erdoğan. NATO, in his own joke, calls him "Daddy."

- **Delegitimisation of**

everyone else: Biden is stupid and low IQ. Democratic leaders are corrupt and owned. Some European leaders are weak, some are “stupid,” the mayor of London is disgusting. A right-wing critic on his own side becomes an idiot the moment she

questions his foreign focus.

- **Compassion as justification for force**: whether it's drug boats, migration, or Ukraine, the line is always: *I only want to save lives*. The violence is always a prophylactic mercy.

This produces a very

specific political structure:

- Institutions become scenery. Courts, alliances, treaties, intergovernmental organisations are backdrops for the great man's improvisations.
- Allies become vassals. Those who align

(Orbán, certain Latin American leaders, hardliners on migration) are praised and potentially rewarded. Those who don't are weak, decaying, or enemies of their own people.

- The domestic system shifts from "rule of law" toward **loyalty to**

the leader as the highest value. Criticism from within the camp is punished mockingly; external critics are enemies, not interlocutors.

This is not fascism in the classical, uniformed sense. It's more like a late-imperial CEO-monarchy: one man, a

network of favored rulers and business elites, a storyline of civilizational emergency, and a lot of "trust me, I made trillions."

8. Conclusion: Spheres, Walls, and Sleepwalkers

Read as a whole, the interview lays out a world that looks like this:

- Ukraine should accept a new map drawn under duress.
- Europe is to be disciplined by Washington not only as an ally, but as a misbehaving client civilization whose internal politics the US is entitled to “correct” via friendly strongmen.

- Migration is the master threat that justifies almost anything.
- Domestic policy is a blur of big numbers, heroic deals, and hatred of “rigged” systems.

You can absolutely critique European weaknesses in all this: sleepwalking on energy,

complacency on defense, half-heartedness on enlargement, real integration costs in cities and suburbs. But Trump's answer is not "repair the system." His answer is: accept spheres of influence, build higher walls, elevate the leader above the institutions, and call that strength.

From a macro-history angle, it feels less like renewal and more like a civilization trying to manage its own anxiety through harder borders and louder myths. The strangest part is that the myths are anchored in real fractures: dependency, inequality, demographic churn, war

fatigue. That's exactly why this kind of doctrine is dangerous. It doesn't come from nowhere. It comes from cracks people were already pretending not to see.